

We both wondered if
the people of
Newcastle/

We wondered whether people in Newcastle ever see the sun. We d
straight along the main street which is cobble all the way and
the car moves over it gives the sound of a train going through
long tunnel. We went straight on to Gosforth and stopped there for
tea. Here I bought a thick skirt- the one I was wearing was too
light and I also got a pair of wooly pants which am now wearing.
The country from here seemed to change from the industrial count
to softer open areas. It was raining hard all the time and so wh
we reached Alnwick, in Northumberland, we stopped for lunch. It is
a very pretty little town and very historical with it Alnwick Cas
after which one of the Union-Castle ships was named. We were rather
glad of the stop for had we gone straight through, or bypassed,
we should have missed Alnwick Castle which belongs to the Duke of
Northumberland and looks a very fine imposing Castle. This will be
open to the public some time in May at a charge of 2/6d each and it
is surprising how much is collected in this way from various Estates
and gardens open to the public. The money goes into a delapidation
fund from which the owners of these Estates are allowed to draw
providing the amount is used for the general repairs and upkeep. In
this way places of historical interest are preserved.

We eventually arrived at Sea Houses, at about Three. It is a delightfu
delightful little fishing villiage and here Edward and Eileen have
rented, for a year, a very nice house on the cliff which is called
'Cliff House'. An living here Eileen says has been a years holiday.
The sea today looks stormy and dark and not far out one can see
small islands and on past the dunes to the West is Banburgh Castle.
which also has a Union-Castle ship named after it. This is a delight
ful place and the house large and comfortable.

They have three little boys Peter, Robin and Guy all such sweet lads
which makes us quite homesick for our own sweeties.

14th April. Friday and Geoff's birthday. and I must admit that until I
read Edith's letter a short while before breakfast I had forgotten
about it and a wonder Geoff had not reminded me. It has been a nice
sunny day but the sun has no strength.

Eileen had suggested that we have breakfast in bed and I did not
demur as when we have visitors at home I like them to have it in
bed which keeps them out of the way while I do my early morning
chores. Yes I prefer people to be out of the way at that time as
there is then always such a bustle and hustle. Geoff took the two
older boys for a walk and after I had done the room followed them.
This is a typical little villiage and reminds me of Jersey. After
morning tea we went out on to the rocks and I tried a bit of sketch-
ing, the subject being Banbury Castle, now a ruin I should think, but
the sketch was not a success as apart from having a child's drawing
book in which the paper is inferior I tried to take in too much.
The skipper of the fishing boat John Wesley has become a bud of
Geoff's and he very kindly, today, brought us two crabs and a lobst-
er which have been duly cooked and we are having them for supper.
The boys had great fun as these crabs got out of the pail and they
had to chase them all round the kitchen.

I don't think these fishermen get a fair deal as we are told that
they get 4/- a stone and there are 8 crabs to the stone all of which
have to be carefully packed in ice not to be damaged or killed. For
these same crabs one, in London, has to be two to three shillings
each. We saw two children wading in the water for hours this morn-
ing, in spite of the cold which they must have felt, collecting
winkles for which they get 2/- a pound and that is their pocket
money. The fishermen go out in their boats and set lobster pots
baited, in the sea. These are left for a day or so before being
collected together with the crabs or lobsters. The crabs are lured
into the wire like pots.

The islands are the Farn Islands of Grace Darling fame on which
all sorts of sea birds nest amongst them, Eider Duck, Arctic Tern,